

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a plurality of bi-directional services that are transmitted over a cable television network, comprising:
 - presenting a program guide to at least one subscriber ~~of a cable television network, wherein the program guide displays at least one of a plurality of bi-directional services offered over the cable television network;~~
 - populating the program guide with at least one a bi-directional services database with availability information related to the bi-directional services, wherein the at least one bi-directional service is maintained in and periodically updated in the program guide by a bi-directional services database displayed in the program guide;
 - receiving a request ~~from a subscriber~~ for a an available bi-directional service displayed in the program guide;
 - ~~querying the bi-directional services database to determine whether the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber is available for consumption in a manner requested by the subscriber;~~
 - rendering the available bi-directional service ~~requested by the subscriber;~~ and
 - updating the bi-directional services database to reflect that the available bi-directional service ~~requested by the subscriber~~ has been rendered.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a request for further information regarding the requested bi-directional service ~~wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a bi-directional communication session between the subscriber and a content provider.~~
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a bi-directional communication session concurrently between a content provider and a plurality of subscribers.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a bi-directional communication session between the subscriber and at least one other subscriber.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

~~receiving a second request for an available bi-directional service displayed in the program guide;~~
~~transmitting the bi-directional service; and~~
~~updating the availability information in the bi-directional services database wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a real-time bi-directional communication session between the subscriber and a content provider.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 4, wherein if a displayed bi-directional service is not available, receiving a request ~~from a subscriber~~ for future consumption of the requested bi-directional service; and

~~providing notification when the bi-directional service is available. a bi-directional service comprises a request of a bi-directional communication service for future consumption~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 4, wherein the notification of the previously unavailable bi-directional service comprises displaying a notice on a currently displayed program ~~wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises one of a plurality of instantiations of a bi-directional service offered by a content provider.~~

8 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of continuously updating the bi-directional services in the program guide to display availability information for each of the plurality of bi-directional services ~~prompting the subscriber to reserve the bi-directional service for another time if the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber is not available.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A system method for accessing a plurality of bi-directional services over a cable television network comprising ~~the steps of:~~

means for populating a bi-directional services database with availability information related to a plurality of bi-directional services;

~~sending the bi-directional services database to home terminal of a first subscriber of a cable television network;~~

means for presenting a program guide to a plurality of subscribers to the first subscriber of the cable television network via the home terminal, wherein the program guide displays the at least one of a plurality of bi-directional services along with the availability information;

means for receiving a request from at least one of the plurality of subscribers from the first subscriber for a at least one available bi-directional service displayed in the program guide;

querying the bi-directional services database to determine whether the bi-directional service requested by the first subscriber is available;

means for rendering the available bi-directional service requested by the first subscriber;

means for generating an updated bi-directional services database to reflect that the requested at least one bi-directional service requested by the first subscriber has been rendered; and

means for retransmitting the program guide including the updated bi-directional services to the plurality of subscribers database to a second subscriber.

14. (Currently Amended) The system method of claim 13, wherein transmitting the program guide including the updated bi-directional services database to a second subscriber occurs on a scheduled basis.

15-31. (Canceled)